THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.2007, a total of 438 proposals for permission of crossings for various water supply projects are under process with Railways. Out of this, 262 proposals are held up for want of completion of procedural requirements by the parties.

Construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link

1661. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal received from the Government of Gujarat for construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link;

(b) whether it is a fact that construction of missing link between Patan-Bhiladi, a dedicated freight corridor between Pipavav, Surendranagar, Viramgam, Mahesana, Patan, Bhiladi up to Bhatinda is feasible; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The new BG line from Patan-Bhiladi is already sanctioned as a part of Viramgam-Bhiladi gauge conversion project. Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, estimates, etc. are in progress.

(b) The portion of Patan-Bhiladi does not come under the identified alignment of the Western route of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). However, Mehsana-Viramgam-Surendranagar-Pipavav (395 kms) is an identified feeder route for the Western Freight Corridor which is getting upgraded to DFC standards.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail connectivity to minor ports

1662. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide rail connectivity to minor ports;

(b) if so, the ports which are under consideration particularly ports of Gujarat State;

(c) whether the Porbandar and Bedi ports are being considered;

(d) if so, whether Government had convened a meeting of Gujarat Government/GMB to consider it; and

(e) by when the approvals of the Railway Board would be given to the above projects alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The list of Ports where Railways are considering rail connectivity is given hereunder:

Sl.No.	State	Port
1.	Maharashtra	1. Rewas Port 2. PNP Port 3. Dighi Port
2.	Orissa	1. Dhamra Port 2. Kirtania Port 3. Gopalpur Port
3.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Gangavaram Port 2. Krishnapatam Port 3. Machilipatnam Port 4. Nizampatanam Port 5. Kakinada Port
4.	Gujarat	1. Hazira Port 2. Bedi Port 3. Porbandar Port 4. Rozi Port 5. Dahej Port
5.	Tamil Nadu	1. Karaikal Port 2. Ennore Port
6.	Kerala	1. Vallarpadam Port
7.	Karnataka	1. Belekeri Port
8.	West Bengal	1. Diamond Harbour

The status of the proposals in Gujarat is as under:

Gujarat:

— Gujarat Maritime Board had commissioned M/s RITES for a feasibility cum traffic survey report for providing rail connectivity to Rozi & Bedi Port from Windmill Station in year 2003. GMB has yet to approach Railways for rail connectivity.

— Gujarat Maritime Board had commissioned M/s RITES for a survey to provide connectivity to Porbandar Port. The report was submitted in June 2002. GMB is considering constructing a rail link of 5.1 Km from Porbandar to Porbandar Port at their own cost.

Gauge covnersion of Bharuch-Dahej Railways Line

1663. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether stake holder agreement has been signed between GMB, Dahej SEZ Limited, GNFC, Adani port and RVNL for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej railway line;